

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 AID-05 CEA-01 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 STR-05
TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /087 W
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R 291740Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7505
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY MADRID

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 15943

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EEC, SP
SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTER SIMONET'S VISIT TO ITALY

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR EC

REF: STATE 223980

1. BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER SIMONET VISITED ITALY SEPT. 15
IN CONTEXT OF BELGIAN EC PRESIDENCY. MFA DIRECTOR FOR EC
AFFAIRS (BATTAGLINI) GAVE AS FOLLOWING RUNDOWN SEPT. 28 ON
ISSUES DISCUSSED IN SIMONET'S MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER
FORLANI:

2. DIRECT ELECTIONS TO EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: FORLANI STRESSED
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TO SIMONET THE IMPORTANCE GOI ATTACHES TO ITALIANS IN OTHER
EC COUNTRIES BEING ABLE TO VOTE FOR ITALIAN CANDIDATES TO EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT. SINCE, ACCORDING TO BATTAGLINI, PCI OPPOSES SYSTEM OF
ABSENTEE BALLOTS (WHICH IT FEARS MIGHT SERVE AS PRECEDENT FOR
ABSENTEE BALLOT SYSTEM IN NATIONAL ELECTIONS WHERE IT MIGHT
REDOUND TO ADVANTAGE OF CONSERVATIVE PARTIEES), MFA NOW HOPES
TO WORK OUT SYSTEM WHEREBY ITALIANS COULD VOTE IN COUNTRIES

WHERE THEY ARE LIVING. BATTAGLINI SAID THAT GERMANS HAVE POSED SOME OBJECTION TO IDEA BECAUSE THEY FEAR THAT TURKISH AND YUGOSLAV GOVERNMENTS MIGHT PUSH FOR SIMILAR SYSTEM FOR THEIR NATIONALS IN FRG.

3. TINDEMANS REPORT: THE BELGIANS ARE ANXIOUS FOR SOME PROGRESS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF TINDEMANS REPORT IN TIME FOR DECEMBER EUROPEAN COUNCIL MEETING. THE ITALIANS ARE WILLING TO COUNTERTENANCE SOME MOVEMENT ON REPORT BUT FEAR THAT TOO MUCH PROGRESS WILL ANTAGONIZE GAULLISTS AND THEREBY COMPLICATE THINGS FOR GISCARD JUST BEFORE FRENCH ELECTIONS.

4. SPANISH ENTRY INTO THE EC: FORLANI EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF REFORM OF EC AGRICULTURAL POLICY IN CONJUNCTION WITH NEGOTIATIONS FOR SPANISH ENTRY INTO THE COMMUNITY. HE AND SIMONET DISCUSSED POSSIBLE MEANS OF ASSOCIATING SPAIN WITH POLITICAL PROCESS EVEN BEFORE ENTRY. AS PRECEDENT, BATTAGLINI MENTIONED SYSTEM BY WHICH FOUR CANDIDATE MEMBERS HAD BEEN BRIEFED AFTER MEETINGS OF SIX IN 1971-2 AS WELL AS BRIEFINGS GIVEN TO GREEKS AND TURKS ON THE BASIS OF THEIR ASSOCIATED STATUS WITH EC. DRAWING ON REFTEL, EMBOFF STRESSED THAT U.S. FAVORS SPANISH ENTRY TO THE EC ALTHOUGH WE OF COURSE LEAVE TO THE EC HOW MEMBERSHIP SHOULD BE ACHIEVED. HOLMES

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